

Message Text

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USIA WASHDC

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

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SUBJ: SOVIET PRESS COVERAGE OF THE U.S.

1. SUMMARY. AS THE SECRETARY'S VISIT APPROACHES, SOVIET MEDIA CONTINUE TO DEVOTE MAJOR COVERAGE TO THE U.S. AS A NECESSARY PARTNER IN BUILDING DETENTE. SECRETARY SIMON'S VISIT TO MOSCOW, POLISH PARTY CHIEF GIEREK'S VISIT TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WASHINGTON, AND PRESIDENT FORD'S PUBLIC REMARKS HAVE

RECEIVED HEAVY AND FAVORABLE COVERAGE. WITHOUT LESSENING THE EMPHASIS ON THIS ASPECT OF RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. HOWEVER, THE PRESS IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS HAS NOT SLACKENED IN ITS DESCRIPTION OF THE U.S. AS THE MAIN ADVERSARY OF PROGRESSIVE FORCES AND OF THE SOCIALIST WORLD, AS WELL AS A COUNTRY WRACKED BY ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS. THE SECRETARY'S "UNILATERAL" DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS ON THE LATEST MIDDLE EAST SWING HAVE BEEN ADJUDGED AS ESSENTIALLY FRUITLESS. THE ARMS RACE IS RECEIVING PRIORITY ATTENTION WITH CALLS, BUT NO PRESCRIPTIONS, FOR LIMITATIONS IN STRATEGIC WEAPONS AND FORCES IN EUROPE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN RECENT WEEKS SOVIET MEDIA HAVE CONTINUED TO TREAT THE U.S. ON TWO LEVELS: ON THE OFFICIAL AND BILATERAL LEVEL AS AN ESSENTIAL PARTNER IN FULFILLING THE HOPES FOR THE DETENTE PROCESS, AND ON THE IDEOLOGICAL AND MULTILATERAL LEVEL AS THE LEADING CAPITALIST ADVERSARY. ON THE FIRST, THE SOVIETS CONTINUE TO AFFIRM IN STRONGEST TERMS THEIR COMMITMENT TO DETENTE AND TO URGE FURTHER STEPS ON TRADE, STRATEGIC ARMS AND EUROPEAN SECURITY. PRAVDA'S WEEKLY REVIEW OCTOBER 20, FOR EXAMPLE, STRESSED THE ECONOMIC THEME IN SAYING THAT "PRACTICE OF THE LAST YEARS HAS CONVINCINGLY SHOWN THAT CREATION OF THE CONDITIONS FOR STABLE PEACE IS IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT A COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC-TECHNOLOGICAL TIES BETWEEN NATIONS OF DIFFERING SOCIAL STRUCTURES." INITIAL COVERAGE AND FOLLOW-UP OF BREZHNEV'S BANQUET SPEECH FOR SECRETARY SIMON EMPHASIZED BOTH POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF THE STATEMENT. MEDIA HAVE UNDERLINED BREZHNEV'S COMMITMENT TO DETENTE IN HIS SPEECHES IN EAST GERMANY (OCTOBER 6) AND MOLDAVIA (OCTOBER 11). POLISH PARTY CHIEF GIEREK'S VISIT TO THE U.S. WAS REPORTED FULLY AND FAVORABLY, WITH DAILY REPORTS OF HIS ACTIVITIES AND COMMENTARIES EMPHASIZING THAT WARSAW WAS DUTIFULLY FOLLOWING MOSCOW'S LEAD IN SEEKING BETTER TIES WITH WASHINGTON. PRESIDENT FORD HAS BEEN TREATED IN FAVORABLE TERMS EVER SINCE HE TOOK OFFICE.

3. IN CONTRAST TO THE PORTRAYAL OF THE U.S. AS A NECESSARY PARTNER IN DETENTE, THE MEDIA HAVE CONTINUED THEIR PROPAGANDA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGAINST THE U.S. AS THE USSR'S PRINCIPAL IDEOLOGICAL FOE, AND THERE IS MORE OPEN BLAME OF THE U.S. FOR STIRRING TENSION IN THE WORLD'S TROUBLE SPOTS. IN LESS MUTED LANGUAGE THEN A MONTH AGO, THE MEDIA CONTINUE TO FIND THE SINISTER HAND OF UNCLE SAM BEHIND EVENTS IN CYPRUS, THE MIDDLE EAST, CHILE, AND INDOCHINA. IN THIS NEGATIVE COVERAGE, THE MEDIA STILL REPORTS IN LARGE DEGREE TO QUOTING CRITICAL REMARKS FROM OTHER NATIONAL MEDIA; IN

SEVERAL INSTANCES OF LATE, HOWEVER, THEY HAVE ORIGINATED THEIR OWN. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA ON OCTOBER 20, IN A DOUBLE-BARRELED ATTACK, BLAMES THE U.S. AND ITS "UNPRECEDENTED SUPPORT IN ARMS AND MONEY" FOR ISRAEL'S CONTINUED REFUSAL TO RECONSIDER ITS DECISION TO SOLVE THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS BY MILITARY FORCE. THE SAME ARTICLE TURNS TO DISCUSSION OF THE SITUATION IN CAMBODIA, AND FINDS THE U.S. "GUILTY", ALONG WITH LON NOL AND HIS COHORTS, FOR THAT NATION'S TRAGIC SITUATION. A PRAVDA COMMENTARY THE SAME DAY (BY VIKTOR MAYEVSKY) USES THE CLEMENTS VISIT TO SAIGON TO EMPHASIZE U.S. AID TO A CORRUPT AND CRISIS-RIDDEN THIEU REGIME AND THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROBLEMS IN WINNING CONGRESSIONAL FUNDING FOR THE AID.

4. THE SOVIET MEDIA HAVE ALSO DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE SPACE TO DECRYING CONTINUATION OF THE ARMS RACE, WHICH IS PORTRAYED AS A SEPARATE PROCESS WORKING DIRECTLY AGAINST THE PROCESS OF DETENTE. PESSIMISM IS RIFE IN COMMENTARY ON THIS THEME, AND BLAME IS OF COURSE PLACED ON THE WEST. IN THIS CONTEXT THE MEDIA HAVE FOCUSED ON THE NEED FOR FURTHER LIMITATIONS ON STRATEGIC ARMS AND ON FORCE REDUCTIONS IN EUROPE, BUT WITHOUT SUBSTANTIVE SUGGESTIONS ON HOW THIS IS TO BE DONE. BREZHNEV'S PROPOSAL ON DENUCLEARIZATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN HAS NOT BEEN PLAYED MUCH IN RECENT WEEKS.

5. THE ALLEGED U.S. OPPONENTS OF DETENTE, ESPECIALLY SENATOR JACKSON, GEORGE MEANY, AND "THE ZIONISTS" ARE PERIODICALLY VILIFIED, THOUGH ATTACKS ON SENATOR JACKSON HAVE BEEN LESS FREQUENT THAN EARLIER - IN APPARENT ANTICIPATION OF THE MFN COMPROMISE (SEE MOSCOW 15895 FOR FIRST SOVIET REACTION TO THE COMPROMISE). FAMILIAR REFERENCE IS MADE TO "CERTAIN CIRCLES" IN THE U.S. AND "AGGRESSIVE IMPERIALIST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CIRCLES" WHO CONTINUE TO WORK AGAINST DETENTE. THESE EVIL FORCES ARE NOT DIRECTLY LINKED TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND ITS LEADERS BUT INCLUDE THE MONOPOLISTS, NATO, THE CIA AND THE MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX.

6. IN AN UNUSUAL UNFAVORABLE DIRECT REFERENCE TO THE SECRETARY, PRAVDA'S WEEKLY REVIEW OCTOBER 20 CONCLUDED THAT SUCH "UNILATERAL" OF "QUIET" DIPLOMACY AS PRACTISED ON HIS RECENT VISIT TO THE MIDDLE EAST" HAS NOT LED TO SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES"IN THAT AREA.

7. THE MEDIA CONTINUE TO DEVOTE MAJOR ATTENTION TO THE "UNPRECEDENTED CRISES" OF THE CAPITALIST WORLD IN GENERAL AND THE U.S. IN PARTICULAR. PRAVDA'S POLITICAL CARTOON NEARLY EVERY DAY DEALS WITH THE RELATED THEMES

OF INFLATION, BIG BUSINESS PROFITS, AND THE HARD LOT OF
THE TOILERS. NUMEROUS ARTICLES HAVE DISCUSSED THE
ECONOMIC CRISIS OF THE CAPITALIST WORLD IN A MANNER WHICH
IMPLIES THAT IT IS HOVERING ON THE VERGE OF COLLAPSE.
IN A TRADITIONAL VEIN, THE SOVIET ALSO ROUTINELY REPORT
SOCIAL PROBLEMS, ESPECIALLY RACE RELATIONS.
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